Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1-34.   (Cancelled)

35.   (Currently Amended) A method of playing a progressive game, comprising:

accepting a player wager at a gaming terminal of a plurality of gaming terminals, each of said plurality of gaming terminals being eligible for at least one progressive game payoff;

funding said progressive game payoff from a percentage of the player wagers, including said player wager, at said plurality of gaming terminals;

conducting a wagering game at via said gaming terminal;

achieving a progressive game entry award at said gaming terminal;

activating said progressive game in response to achieving said progressive game entry award;

displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements during said progressive game including a first set of at least two elements associated with a progressive game payoff and a second, distinct set of elements, each being associated with a respective credit award;

selecting, via player inputs, at least one of said plurality of player-selectable game elements, said selecting includes sequentially selecting said player-selectable game elements;

awarding said progressive game payoff in response to said player selecting the first a certain set of said player-selectable game elements; and

awarding the respective a credit award in response to said player selecting at least one of said player-selectable game elements in said second, distinct set of elements, in addition to awarding said progressive-game payoff in response to said player selecting the first set of elements not in said certain set of said player-selectable game elements.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said player-selectable game elements including a continue-game element that allows for the continuation of said progressive game and a stop-game element that stops said progressive game.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said sequentially selecting one of said continue-game elements increases said progressive game payoff.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said progressive game payoff includes first and second progressive game payoffs, said second progressive game payoff being higher than said first progressive game payoff, selecting a predetermined number of said continue-game elements allows said player to achieve said second progressive game payoff.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said progressive game payoff includes first and second progressive game payoffs, said first and second progressive game payoffs being funded from a percentage of said player wagers from said plurality of gaming terminals, said second progressive game payoff being higher than said first progressive game payoff, said continue-game elements including level-increasing elements, selecting a predetermined number of said level-increasing elements allows a player to achieve said second progressive game payoff.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said achieving said progressive game entry award includes selecting from a plurality of progressive game qualifying items, at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items permitting entry to said progressive game.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said progressive game qualifying items are video envelopes that are selectable by a player at said gaming terminal, said at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items including an invitation therein that is displayed in response to said player selecting said at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said progressive game payoff includes first and second progressive game payoffs, said first and second progressive game payoffs being displayed on signage located above said gaming terminal.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said steps of conducting, achieving, activating, and displaying are performed by a CPU internal to said gaming terminal.

44.   (Previously Presented) A method of playing a progressive game at a gaming terminal, said progressive game having a first progressive game payoff and a second progressive game payoff, comprising:

accepting a player wager at a gaming terminal of a plurality of gaming terminals, each of said plurality of gaming terminals being eligible for said first and second progressive game payoffs;

funding said first and second progressive game payoffs from a percentage of the player wagers including said player wager, at said plurality of gaming terminals;

receiving, from said gaming terminal, at least one player input during said progressive game;

in response to said receiving said player inputs, determining whether said player input achieves said first progressive game payoff or said second progressive game payoff, said second progressive game payoff being greater than said first progressive game payoff, a first selection of player inputs yielding said first progressive game payoff and a second selection of player inputs yielding said second progressive game payoff; and

awarding to said player a corresponding one of said first and second progressive game payoffs.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said at least one player input includes a plurality of sequential player inputs.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said gaming terminal includes a display, said display for displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements, said at least one player input corresponding to one of said plurality of player-selectable game elements.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said receiving includes activating a touch screen positioned over said one of said plurality of player-selectable game elements.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said plurality of gaming terminals are connected to signage for displaying said first and second progressive game payoffs.

49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further including prior to said step of receiving, conducting a progressive game qualifying round for determining whether a player at said gaming terminal is permitted to enter said progressive game and play for said first and second progressive game payoffs.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said progressive game qualifying round including selecting, at said gaming terminal, one of a plurality of progressive game qualifying items, at least one of said progressive game qualifying items including a progressive game qualifying award for allowing said player at said gaming terminal to enter said progressive game.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said qualifying round yields a higher probability of entry into said progressive game in response to higher amounts being wagered in a basic game at said gaming terminal.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said determining is performed by a CPU internal to said gaming terminal.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said determining is performed by a CPU external to said gaming terminal.

54.   (Currently Amended) A method of playing a progressive game with a progressive game payoff, comprising:

        accepting a player wager at a gaming terminal of a plurality of gaming terminals, each of said plurality of gaming terminals being eligible for at least said progressive game payoff;

        funding said progressive game payoff from a percentage of the player wagers, including said player wager, at said plurality of gaming terminals;

        conducting a wagering game at said gaming terminal;

simultaneously displaying a plurality of player-selectable elements corresponding to a plurality of possible player-selectable inputs;

receiving one of said plurality of player-selectable inputs, said plurality of player-selectable inputs including a <u>concealed</u> stop-game input and a <u>concealed</u> continue-game input <u>with an associated credit award</u>;

in response to receiving said <u>concealed</u> continue-game input, allowing a player to continue said progressive game and awarding <u>the associated</u> a credit award, the credit award awarded in addition to any progressive game payoff;

in response to receiving said <u>concealed</u> stop-game input, ending said progressive game.

55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein in response to receiving said continue-game input, providing said player with an award.

56.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said progressive game payoff has multiple payoff amounts, said awarding including providing a higher payoff in response to a predetermined number of continue-game inputs being received.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said steps of allowing and ending are performed by a CPU located remotely from said gaming terminal, said CPU controlling the operation of said progressive game.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said remote CPU is located in signage adjacent to said gaming terminal, said signage displaying said progressive game payoff.

59.   (Previously Presented) A gaming terminal capable of playing a progressive game that is triggered during or after a wagering game being played at said gaming terminal, said progressive game having a first progressive game payoff and a second progressive game payoff that are funded by a percentage of player-input wagers from said gaming terminal and other gaming terminals, said gaming terminal comprising:

an input device for receiving inputs from a player during said wagering game, said inputs including a wager amount;

a display for displaying a randomly selected outcome of said wagering game in response to receiving said wager amount from said player; and

wherein, in response to said progressive game being triggered, said display displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements, said progressive game awarding said first progressive game payoff or said second progressive game payoff based on a selection by said player of said player-selectable game elements.

60.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 59, wherein said input device includes a touch screen overlying said display, said touch screen providing for said selection of said player-selectable game elements.

61.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 59, wherein said player-selectable game elements are presents that, if selected, are opened to reveal an outcome.

62.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 59, wherein said player-selectable game elements include at least one continue-game element and at least one stop-game element, said selecting continues until said stop-game element is selected.

63.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 62, wherein said continue-game elements include level-increasing elements, said selection of a predetermined number of said continue-game elements providing for said progressive game to be at a higher level so as to possibly award said second progressive game payoff.

64.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 62, wherein said continue-game elements include a credit element, said credit element providing said player of said progressive game with a credit award.

65.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 59, further including a local CPU determining said randomly selected outcome.

66.   (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 59, further including a connection port for coupling said gaming terminal to signage located adjacent to said gaming terminal for displaying a progressive game payoff.

67-68.   (Canceled)

69.   (Previously Presented) A method of playing a progressive game at a gaming terminal of a plurality of gaming terminals, said progressive game having a first progressive game payoff and a second progressive game payoff that are funded by a percentage of player-input wagers, comprising:

      receiving, at said gaming terminal, a wager input from said player during a basic-wagering game, each of said plurality of gaming terminals being eligible for at least one of said first and second progressive game payoffs;

      funding said progressive game payoff from a percentage of the player wagers at said plurality of gaming terminals;

      in response to said player achieving a start-progressive outcome in said basic-wagering game, initiating a progressive game in which said player is eligible to win said first progressive game payoff and said second progressive game regardless of an amount of said wager input from said player; and

      awarding to said player a corresponding one of said first and second progressive game payoffs based on a player selection made during said progressive game.